



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 1, 2005

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY,
HEATHER TASKER
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

FBI
JAMES MARGOLIN, MATTHEW BERTRON
(212) 384-2720, 2715

**TWO ARRESTED AND CHARGED FOR HOSTAGE TAKING;
TWO HOSTAGES RESCUED BY FBI**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JUN LIANG and CHAO XIAN YAO were arrested by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the "FBI") late last week for conspiracy to commit hostage taking.

According to the Complaint filed in federal court during this past week, several women who had been illegally smuggled into the United States from China were being held as hostages until their families in the United States were able to pay each hostage's smuggling fee. The fee demanded from one hostage's family was \$70,000, it was charged.

Members of the FBI's Asian Criminal Enterprise Task Force were able to determine that one of the cellular telephones used to demand the payment of this smuggling fee was registered to an address in Brooklyn. As a result, agents set up

surveillance near the address and observed LIANG and YAO exiting the address with an Asian woman. The three then met with another woman and, shortly thereafter, the two women walked away in one direction while LIANG and YAO walked off in another.

According to the Complaint, after observing the woman walk away, an agent called one of the cellular telephones used to make a ransom demand. YAO was observed answering this call, and agents arrested him and LIANG.

According to the Complaint, after their arrest, agents found more than \$10,000 in cash as well as a substantial number of unaddressed money orders on YAO, and both YAO and LIANG carried cellular telephones that allegedly had been used to make ransom demands. Agents also learned that there were two additional women being held at the Brooklyn address that was under surveillance, and subsequently rescued these women and released them to their families.

Mr. KELLEY praised the FBI for their response to and the investigation of this matter.

If convicted on the hostage taking conspiracy charge alleged in the Complaint, LIANG and YAO each faces a maximum term of imprisonment of life.

Assistant United States Attorney W.S. WILSON LEUNG is in charge of the prosecution.

The allegations contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

